

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 260700Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5778

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, PO, CG

SUBJ: BONGO'S STATEMENT CONCERNING MOBUTU

REF: KINSHASA 8101, 8151

1. IN SEPT 21 PRESS STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1975 BUDGET, BONGO NOTED HIS "SURPRISE TO LEARN FROM PRESS THAT BRAZZAVILLE CONFERENCE HAD GIVEN SPECIFIC MANDATE TO MOBUTU TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT DE SPINOLA".

2. BONGO ALSO NOTED A) ONE PURPOSE OF BRAZZAVILLE CONFERENCE WAS TO DISCUSS DE-COLONIZATION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES; B) CHIEFS OF STATE OF CONGO, TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA WHO WERE GIVEN OAU MANDATE TO RECONCILE OAU LIBERATION MOVEMENTS DID MEET TOGETHER AT BRAZZAVILLE BUT THERE WAS NEVER A QUESTION OF GIVING A MANDATE TO A CHIEF OF STATE TO DEAL WITH PORTUGUESE; C) GOG INTERESTED IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE BUT BONGO RECEIVED NO PARTICULAR MISSION IN REGARD TO ISLANDS; D) BONGO HAD NOT YET CONTACTED MOBUTU FOR CLARIFICATION; IT POSSIBLE THAT JOURNALISTS HAD TWISTED MOBUTU'S STATEMENT.

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3. COMMENT: FOR SOMETIME THERE HAS BEEN RIVALRY BETWEEN BONGO AND

MOBUTU STEMMING FROM GABONESE ATTEMPTS GET MOHAMED ALI EXHIBITION
BOUT IN LIBREVILLE PRIOR TO ALI-FORMAN MATCH IN KINSHASA AND
MORE RECENTLY OVER WHO WOULD GET JAMES BROWN APPEARANCE FIRST.
COUNTRYMAN

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NNN

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